

OUTLINED REMARKS

15 Minutes

Mr. Carlucci

Wilkes Barre, Pa.

13 October 1978

+ This is a gratifying day -

- ° Post-Agnes aftermath was dismal time for us all;
- ° Never doubted determination of those dedicated to rebuilding;
- ° Now have fine new Kirby Library and Stettler Learning Center;
- ° They represent latest steps in unbroken tradition of 134 years of devotion to excellence in education.

+ Am here today in several roles -

- ° Alumnus with host of fond memories;
- ° Parent of student; resultant feelings of pride;
- ° Local boy in right place and position to help when the Valley was devastated by perhaps worst natural disaster in nation's history; lucky to be able to help rebuild;
- ° Am also a public servant and belong to everyone, but more of me belongs to you than to others for all these reasons;
- ° Hence, particular honor for me to be here to participate in dedication of this remarkable educational facility;
- ° Its existence certifies your obvious devotion to educational excellence.

- + Today - There is a trend toward equality in education
  - concern for racial balance in classroom (busing, etc)
  - efforts to ensure equal opportunity to all Americans for 1st rate education (court decisions, etc.)
- + Does this quest for equality mean that excellence will suffer?  
Not necessarily; equal opportunity education does not mean least common denominator education.
  - in the search for equal opportunity we cannot reject knowledge/experience which is currently beyond the grasp of some to achieve.
    - ° The more sophisticated our society becomes, the more we need intellectual excellence to serve it.
    - ° Equality of opportunity means all levels of education must be available to all so that individuals can develop intellectual capabilities to their maximum.
    - ° But we are not all born with equal powers and faculties. Some will achieve success in the arts while others will be drawn to the sciences. Some will want and be capable of pursuing ideas and pushing intellectual thoughts to new frontiers; others will find their true talent in that which their hands can create.
    - ° True equality of opportunity means that the chance for excellence through education must exist for each of us,

whatever natural abilities we have. John Silber, President of Boston University, said recently, "Rejecting excellence in the interest of women and minorities is in effect a condescending adoption of a lower standard for them."

+ Does the Federal Government have a role to play in offering these kinds of opportunities?

- Perhaps; but I believe that role is limited.
  - ° NEA believes 33% of federal operating budget should be devoted to education. Only 7% now.
  - ° No % is either right or wrong; what is right or wrong is how \$ is spent.
- The Federal Government should help communities finance programs which the communities feel are needed but which they cannot otherwise afford.
  - ° The communities themselves must decide what they need because they know best what needs they exist to serve.
  - ° Any attempt by the Federal Government to centralize or impose programs across-the-board will waste funds where those programs are not needed and deny them to other programs needed in other places. The "single solution" approach - so dear to bureaucratic hearts - will not work.
- The Federal Government should finance research--both basic and directed -- in all fields.
- The Federal Government should assist schools in finding ways

to operate more economically/effectively. Non-interfering management assistance might permit more of our small schools and colleges to continue in operation, thus encouraging educational opportunity and diversity.

+ In short,

- national education strength~~th~~ comes from:
  - ° demand for excellence, and
  - ° encouragement of diversity, both of which permit broader opportunity to all.
  - ° decentralization - where community needs can be recognized and satisfied; where local initiative prevails.
- only where federal funds can encourage these strengths, should it be considered.

+ Particular honor, I repeat, for me to participate in this day of dedication -

- Thank you for not forgetting me;
- I have not forgotten you.